

## KIDS CAN'T OPERATE CARS NOW

Matter Officially Threshed Out by City Council and Mayor's Examining Board is Approved

## OWNERS AND CHILDREN ARE LIABLE TO ARREST

Man Who Allows Children Under Sixteen to Take Car Out of Garage Will Be Haled in Court

Without a dissenting voice Mayor Coffman's appointees to the examining board which will determine who shall and who shall not be given licenses to drive automobiles in the city were approved by the council last night. An examination fee of seventy-five cents will be levied for all such permits.

The examining board will consist of Emmett Barton, L. R. Boone and Harold Dipert.

Notwithstanding an effort which was made by Councilman Linn to have the age limit removed as a qualification for applicants for permits to drive, the present law prescribing a penalty for any person under sixteen years to drive a car unless accompanied on the same seat by a "licensed driver" was not amended in any way affected. It was brought out in the discussion that sixteen and not eighteen years was the age fixed by the statutes notwithstanding the conflicting figures inserted in the ordinance ledger. Councilman Linn contended that some children were better qualified to handle automobiles than were their elders and that many parents have become accustomed to having their youngsters call for them after office hours. Furthermore merchants in some instances find that they can economize sometimes to the extent of two or three hundred dollars by utilizing the talents and the energies of their boys in the driving of automobiles and wagons during vacation. On these it would work a hardship, he said, while in his opinion the boys were fully competent to operate the cars. It would be the duty of the examining board to determine whether or not the child's legs were long enough to reach the various apparatus which would place the machinery in motion and whether they could handle the steering wheel.

Mayor Coffman spoke briefly but to the point on the subject. Children were children whether they had, through prevailing conditions, learned to operate cars or not. They had not the judgment of grown people. It was not merely the knowledge of directing an automobile along a clear road which should determine a driver's competency, but rather the judgment which he should exercise in moments of actual peril. In this a child was deficient, in his opinion. Another argument which should exclude them from handling these powerful machines was that under the statutes they are not liable for accidents as are persons over sixteen. It would not be just to place this power for evil in their hands without having handy a remedy to apply in case of misuse. That was the dangerous phase of the situation. There is no law under which children can be punished in case of accidents and under those conditions they should not be allowed to run cars at large.

Councilman Hayes admitted that there were many boys who drove cars and who drove them well. But these are boys just the same without the heads of grown-ups.

City Attorney Grigsby placed a hypothetical case before the council. Suppose a fourteen-year-old boy should lose his head while driving a car and kill a whole family, his own or another, what remedy could be applied under the law? Absolutely none.

Then Councilman Caneman clinched the whole proposition by declaring that there was no use in talking, a child under sixteen is a child and has not sense enough to meet emergencies. An automobile is an engine of big horsepower and no child would be permitted to handle it. What manufacturer would risk as large an engine in the hands of a child with the same risk of loss of life involved in its mis-

management?

The resolution, in effect as follows, was passed with an emergency clause: The ordinance provides that no person shall run an automobile within the city of Chickasha without first obtaining a recommendation or statement from the examining board and shall pay seventy-five cents for such examination. A penalty not exceeding \$20 is attached and the ordinance becomes effective after its publication, carrying the emergency clause.

Mayor Coffman explained that anybody with a license could teach another how to drive but that in some instances several members of a family operated the same car. Each of these would have to procure a separate license.

Not only the child who drives an automobile without sanction of the law but the owner of the car who permits it will be subject to arrest, Mayor Coffman said today.

## CITY COUNCIL IN REGULAR SESSION

Important Measures Discussed and Passed by City Fathers Last Night

The city council met in regular session last night and was called to order by Mayor Coffman. Roll call showed all members present excepting Dr. Bose.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The bonds of R. A. Sanford and O. M. Turner on service cars in the sum of \$1500 each and the bond of A. Loo-ned, police officer, in the sum of \$500, also the depository bond of the Oklahoma National bank in the sum of \$10,000 were approved on motion of Caneman.

An ordinance governing and controlling the erection and maintenance of garages was read. On motion of Hayes the ordinance was referred to the fire and water committee for investigation and that committee was instructed to report at the next meeting. Mayor Coffman appointed for approval of the council the following persons as members of the auto license examining board: Emmett Barton, L. R. Boone and Harold Dipert. On motion of Hayes the appointments were confirmed.

An ordinance fixing the compensation for members of the examining board at 75 cents for each applicant examined was read and on motion passed.

The matter of opening Alabama avenue from Twelfth street to Seventeenth was introduced by the mayor and was referred to the street and alley committee.

A resolution regarding the distribution of moneys derived from the collection of interest and penalties on paving and grading assessments was before the council for consideration.

Councilman Hayes, seconded by Linn, moved that the resolution be tabled indefinitely, which motion was lost by a vote of five to two.

Caneman moved the adoption of the resolution as read and explained at the previous meeting by Alger Melton, which carried by a vote of five to two.

## HEAVY JAIL SENTENCES

Mayor Coffman Sends Men Charged with Theft From Barber to County Roads

Long jail sentences were imposed by Mayor Coffman yesterday afternoon upon Walter Ferris and Jack Shipley, who for weeks have been seen upon the streets of Chickasha and who were convicted in the city court of having stolen a suit of clothes and a coat from a Ninnekah barber on Tuesday afternoon. Ferris was given fifty days in jail and Shipley forty days. They will be turned over to the county for service on the public roads.

Mrs. P. C. Stacy and son, James, leave today for Norman to attend the Missouri-Oklahoma football game.

## NEWTON'S JURY NOW 7-4 AND 1

Judge Jones Calls in Twelve Men at Noon to Ascertain Probability of Reaching Conclusion

## ELOQUENT APPEAL MADE BY BAREFOOT

Six Men on Jury Melt to Tears When Attorney for Defense Presents Case of Accused Banker

After deliberating for nearly twenty-four hours the jury in the case of W. A. Newton, charged with embezzlement, reported the status of their deliberations to Judge Cham Jones shortly before noon today. The foreman said they had had a hard time getting together and had made little progress. The jurors at present, he said, stood seven to four with one member not voting.

The jury was brought in by Bailiff R. F. Lindsay and returned again to their quarters in the county jail building.

The conviction is gaining ground that the trial will result either in the acquittal of Newton or a hung jury.

At one time during the masterly presentation of the defense by Attorney B. B. Barefoot six of the jurors were melted to tears and sympathy for the defendant was in evidence in the large audience which assembled in the district court room.

Omitting the oratory and his hearers Mr. Barefoot took up the history of the banking conditions which prevailed at Rush Springs and conditions surrounding this case, showing that Newton had been connected with the bank for two or three years and had been an extremely popular man in the community up to the time when these proceedings had been instituted against him. That immediately upon the merger of the Farmers & Merchants bank and the State bank an effort was made on the part of certain men to get control of the stock to the detriment of stockholders of the Farmers and Merchants bank, which also meant the elimination of Newton as cashier.

He charged persecution in the bringing of an auditor from Dallas to audit Newton's books and that while the bank claimed a shortage of \$7200 a witness on the stand admitted that in this calculation an error of \$6400 had been made. The attorney declared the directors had confiscated \$2,300 worth of bank stock belonging to Newton which would have completely overcome any overdraft which Newton may have made on his private account.

It was then shown that the matter between Newton and the Bentleys was a private transaction outside of the jurisdiction of the bank. Newton, he pointed out, had tried to pay back the \$1064.11 which he held in trust for them but Mr. Bentley had refused to accept it on advice of the bank's officials.

Newton was now ready and willing to pay back to the Bentleys the sum in which he was indebted to him and would settle this matter in a manner satisfactory to the Bentleys if given an opportunity to do so.

## MAYOR VETOES LAST GAMBLING ORDINANCE

The veto of Mayor Coffman of the gambling ordinance passed by the city council at its last meeting mentioning specifically doll and other racks was read to the city council last night. The explanation was vouchsafed that an ordinance covering the ground was already in effect.

Mayor Coffman took occasion to deplore the passage of superfluous ordinances whose publication is an expense to the city.

### IN POLICE COURT

Napoleon Holder, charged with fighting, was the only case on the police court docket this morning. Holder was lodged in jail by Officers Tuck and Looney.

## EVACUATING THE DOBRUJA BULGARS SAY

King Ferdinand Appeals to Rulers of Allied Nations to Save Roumania From Desolation

## SEA BATTLE BETWEEN DESTROYERS LAST NIGHT

German Vessels Attempt Raid Under Cover of Darkness and Two of Them are Sunk by British

By United Press.  
Berlin, Oct. 27.—The Russo-Roumanian forces are evacuating practically all of the Dobruja, according to advices from the Bulgarian war office.

Dispatches from Bucharest say King Ferdinand dispatched personal appeals to the rulers of the allied nations to save Roumania, following the fall of Constantza.

The king told his ministers that the Roumanian defeat was due to the failure of Russia to supply artillery and munitions as promised.

French Approaching Fort Vaux.

By United Press.  
Paris, Oct. 27.—The French are closing in upon Fort Vaux, the last important position held by the Germans northeast of Verdun, according to reports today.

Destroyers Clash.

By United Press.  
London, Oct. 27.—British and German destroyers clashed in the English channel last night, the admiralty announced today.

The German vessels attempted a raid under cover of darkness. Two of them were sunk, it is stated. It is feared that the British lost one vessel while another was disabled.

Another admiralty announcement today told of the Johnson liner, Rovaniemi, of ten thousand tons, a British steamer, being sunk.

## GAS STRUCK AT LINDSAY 650 FEET

A. F. Sims Sells 40 Acres of Land for \$5,000 and Excitement Follows Flow at Wells

Special to the Express.

Lindsay, Okla., Oct. 27.—The Santa Fe's test well on the Sims farm on the northwest quarter of section two township two north, range five west, continues to increase its flow of gas at 650 feet. It is estimated to be a twenty barrel well at this depth. The drill is swiftly dropping through blue shale into the second and paying sand.

A. F. Sims, on whose land the oil and gas was discovered, has sold 40 acres of his land to the Ardmore Oil company for \$5000. Oil men from every part of the state began arriving here this morning in automobiles and on the Rock Island and Santa Fe en route to the field. In some cases high prices are paid for acreage.

### MARRIED

Miss Mabel Linda, deputy court clerk, yesterday afternoon issued a marriage license to Guy C. Axton, 42, Minco, and Miss Annie Bray, 24, Verden, who were married by County Judge R. E. Davenport.

### WEATHER FORECAST.

For Oklahoma.  
Tonight and Saturday, fair; warmer.

## U. S. GIVES WARNING TO MEXICO

Secretary Baker's Statement Was Meant to Put Carranza Government on Notice for Better Conditions

## STRIFE STIRRED TO AFFECT POLITICS

American Army Forewarned that Plotters on American Side Plan Attack to Reflect on Wilson's Administration

By United Press.  
Washington, Oct. 27.—Secretary of War Baker announced this morning that he may make another statement later in regard to his charge that a plot exists to produce an armed conflict between this country and Mexico.

Administration officials said Baker's statement was intended as a warning to the Mexican government and a guarantee of the good faith of the United States government. The administration expects the Carranza government to take final and effective measures for the suppression of banditry.

Secretary Baker returned today from Martinsburg, W. Va., where he spoke last night. His own belief and that of other administration officials was expressed in the startling statement which he issued last night. By making public its knowledge of the danger seriously threatening the relations between the United States and the Carranza government, the administration expects to make Carranza fully realize this government's unselfish purpose and in consequence hopes for more active co-operation between the military forces of the two countries for common action against Mexican bandits.

Should the Mexican government ignore the opportunity thus presented and fail to bring about better conditions in Mexico, there is reason to believe that the American government will seriously consider independent action toward that end. Baker's statement is also expected to have an important effect in checking the reported conspiracy on the American side of the border.

While no definite statement could be obtained the impression was given that the alleged conspiracies were being furthered by Mexican officials of the Diaz regime and their agents who have headquarters in several large eastern cities and border towns. Baker's statement, issued last night, was as follows:

"The war department has received definite information confirmed from other sources, that enemies of the administration's policy towards Mexico, in co-operation with Villa or other bandits in Mexico, have arranged a spectacular attack to be made either upon some part of the American forces or upon some American community on the border between now and the date of the election for the purpose of turning the tide of sentiment against the policy which the administration had adopted for the protection of the border.

"It is significant in this connection that both the state and war departments were advised that the bandit forces operating at the present time in Mexico are being paid in silver coin. Full particulars have been transmitted to General Funston and General Pershing. All American forces are therefore warned and in readiness for such an attack."

## JUDGE DAVIS, FAMOUS ORATOR, SPEAKS AND BAND PLAYS TONIGHT

Dr. Claude Martin, of Ponasset, called the Daily Express by long distance phone this morning to say, "I just want to tell the people of Chickasha to be sure to hear Judge Preston Davis speak. He is one of the greatest orators I ever heard and he held his audience spell-bound here last night. If the people had known what kind of speaker he is the hall wouldn't have been half large enough to hold the crowd."

Judge Davis is speaking under the auspices of the Democratic state com-

mittee in behalf of President Wilson and the Democratic ticket and he is regarded as one of the ablest men now engaged in campaign work. He spoke at Minco and Ponasset yesterday and Verden this afternoon. He will speak at the court house here at 8 o'clock. The Chickasha Concert band will furnish music for the occasion and will entertain the crowd for an hour or more before the speaking begins. Everybody is invited to hear the music and an address by one of Oklahoma's best orators.

Ignorant of Plot.  
By United Press.

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 27.—Representatives of the state department on the border claim to know nothing of a plot of Mexican revolutionists to attack the American expedition while military officials of the United States say they have been prepared for such an eventuality for months.

Closely watch is being kept on several Americans who are suspected of attempting to aid Villa. Consul Garcia declared that the Carranza government had heard of the proposed raid but had taken no steps to prevent it.

Villa Springs Coup.

By United Press.  
El Paso, Tex., Oct. 27.—Chihuahua City is cut off from the south, both wire and railway communication having been severed yesterday through a coup of Villa.

Carranzista reinforcements from the south will be delayed and the shipments of ammunition to Chihuahua stopped except from the north.

## 35 A.O.U.W. CANDIDATES INITIATED

Members of Order Have Big Feast in Honor of Recent Large Increased Membership

At the regular meeting of the A. O. U. W. Wednesday night, thirty-five new members were initiated. This raises the number of the local class to one hundred and seventy-five members. The recent increase in membership is due to the advertised low initiation fee which is offered until October 31st. After the business meeting Wednesday night an oyster supper was served to about one hundred members.

## HERALD IS OUT FOR WOODROW

By United Press.

Chicago, Oct. 27.—The Chicago Herald, of which James Keely is editor, in an editorial published today, declared itself in favor of the re-election of President Wilson.

While the Herald has always declared itself to be independent in the past, it has usually supported the Republican party.

T. R. Not Gagged.

By United Press.  
Chicago, Oct. 27.—Theodore Roosevelt today answered the charge that he will be gagged into pussyfooting on the German issue and as a result of a coldness having arisen between himself and Hughes, by announcing that he will probably make five more speeches for Hughes.

## WILL KEEP CHICKASHA IN CLEAR

Citizens Who Give Guarantee to Protect City in Case of Suit in Paving Tax Refund

## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS TAX RESOLUTIONS

Directs City Clerk to Reimburse Paving Tax Payers for Payments Made for Penalties and Excess Interest

The city of Chickasha will be protected against all losses accruing from suits which may arise from the order to refund excessive penalty payments to local property owners.

Immediate action on the part of the city council in passing the paving tax resolution, was prompted by the provisions of the following guarantee on the part of a number of citizens of Chickasha to protect the city from expense in the premises, a contest either from the bondholders or from a taxpayer when refused payment by the city clerk or treasurer being anticipated:

To the Mayor and Council of the City of Chickasha:

We, the undersigned resident and property owners in the city of Chickasha, being interested in the resolution now pending before the city council of the City of Chickasha, the purpose of which is to authorize the repayment to the property owners in paving district No. 3, in said city penalties on paving assessments, less all such sums as is necessary to secure the assessments levied against such property and interest, hereby agree that upon the adoption of said resolution by the city council of the City of Chickasha, we will pay all expenses and costs incurred in any litigation testing the validity of such resolution and the authority of the city council to refund such penalties.

(Signed): Jacob Lorenson, J. A. Burton, S. P. Lushach, D. D. Sayer, C. T. Erwin, agent, J. W. Speake, M. S. Cralle, D. C. Newman, Thomas J. O'Neill, George R. Beeler, C. G. Hubbard, Jonas Cook, Dave Hill, A. D. Thompson, R. M. Cavett, Dr. R. P. Tye, H. C. McKay, T. H. Williams, John M. Wantland, E. J. Hubbard, Mike Dickson, U. N. Church, J. P. Nail, C. M. Hollingsworth, J. A. Smith, W. T. Cloud, G. W. Holder, S. L. Newman, J. H. Freeman, J. C. Neal, L. L. Cappelman and J. C. Maddox.

By a vote of 5 to 2 the resolution which was introduced and urged by Alger Melton for the refund of about \$20,000 in excess penalty payments now held by the city treasurer to paving taxpayers of Chickasha was passed by the city council last night.

What it Calls For.

The resolution provides that all of the excessive penalties now in the city treasury as a result of the collection of the 18 per cent provided for delinquents be refunded and repaid to the respective parties paying the same and that "the holders of receipts for penalties paid upon such special assessments may present the same to the city clerk of the City of Chickasha and said city clerk is authorized and directed to ascertain the amount to which the holder of said receipt is entitled by determining whether or not all assessments and interest have been paid against the lot or lots upon which such penalties may have been paid up to and including the first day of September, 1916, and if all such assessments and interests have been paid the city clerk shall issue a warrant to the holders of such receipts for the excess penalty paid on any lot or lots against such fund now on hand accruing from such penalties.

Does Not Urge Payment.

Further discussion of the matter was provoked when Councilman Hayes moved that the resolution be tabled indefinitely. Mr. Hayes referred to the large amount of work involved in such action for the city clerk and made further reference to the fact that both the city clerk and the city treasurer were under heavy bonds for the proper distribution of this money. Mr. Melton declared that it was not his purpose to nor did he recommend

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